



## NEWS RELEASE

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For More Information, Contact:  
Dave Glatt  
Environmental Health Section  
North Dakota Department of Health  
Phone: 701.328.5150  
E-mail: dglatt@nd.gov

### **North Dakota Department of Health Conducting Testing at Williston Fire Site**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) has personnel on site in Williston to collect samples and monitor cleanup efforts in the area of the Red River Supply fire.

“We are collecting samples of various materials from a variety of locations to get an idea of whether anything that might be harmful to public health was released either in the fire itself or as a result of efforts to control the fire,” according to Dave Glatt, Environmental Health Section Chief for the NDDoH. “Initial samples were transported to our lab in Bismarck Tuesday evening, and testing on those samples has begun,” added Glatt.

Glatt added that the department is testing for a variety of substances and will keep the public informed of the results when they become available. “We understand people are concerned about possible harm. So far we have not found anything that causes us great concern, but we will follow through with testing to make certain public health is protected,” added Glatt.

Glatt explained that local emergency personnel took steps to contain potentially toxic material, and that will make the NDDoH’s job easier. Department personnel are working closely with the Upper Missouri District Health Unit and local officials to coordinate monitoring activities. In addition, the Environmental Protection Agency is on site to assist with air quality monitoring.

If further advisories concerning public health are warranted, the department will keep the public informed.

For more information, contact Dave Glatt, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.5150.

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